

## Abstract

## Provision of services in a communication system

5 A method and arrangement for providing services for clients  
(3) associated with a data communication network is disclosed  
for use in a system where the services are provided by at  
least one external service provider (11-13). In the method  
10 offers are signalled from said at least one external service  
provider to an interface entity (2) associated with the data  
network (1), said offers associating with services provided  
by said service provider. The offers are processed at the  
interface entity in order to make a decision regarding the  
15 acceptance of the offers. Accepted services are then included  
into a register of services that are available for the  
clients. When a client wishes to use a service, a request for  
the service is signalled to the interface entity. The request  
is processed by the interface entity to find a matching  
20 service from the registered services. If a matching service  
is found, said service is requested from an external service  
provider providing said service. The request is communicated  
to said external service provider based on an appropriate  
protocol that enables initiation of a service provisioning  
25 session. The protocol is preferably such that the session may  
be initiated without any beforehand defined interfaces  
between the interface entity and the external service  
provider.

30 (Fig.1)